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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

Addendum**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated that three Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of associate members, namely, the British Virgin Islands (1983), the Cayman Islands (1999) and Tokelau (2001). A consultative process has started with Bermuda, which has expressed an interest in associate membership. UNESCO employs every opportunity to engage with Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional, subregional and national levels. A number of World Heritage Sites are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories. These include: the Historic Town of Saint George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); the Lagoons of New Caledonia Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France); and Henderson Island (Pitcairn, United Kingdom).

* E/2011/100 and Corr.1.

** This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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2. With regard to the Caribbean, in the field of education UNESCO organized a regional capacity-building workshop on education statistics, which was held in Kingston in March 2011. A number of participants were from the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

3. Furthermore, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, UNESCO is carrying out an assessment of policies regarding technical and vocational education and training in islands of the Eastern Caribbean, including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

4. In the field of culture, in June 2010 UNESCO organized a subregional meeting in Grenada on cultural diversity and intangible cultural heritage. Representatives of Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat participated in the meeting. Participants adopted a 2010-2012 action plan to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the Caribbean and to increase awareness of the importance of culture for development.

5. Furthermore, in September 2010 a Caribbean subregional workshop on the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was held in Havana. Participants included representatives of the British Virgin Islands and 12 Caribbean countries. The workshop provided a forum for identifying needs for heritage protection and for assessing the progress made in the implementation of the 2004-2014 Caribbean Plan of Action.

6. Concerning natural sciences, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands are active members of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions. In February 2011, representatives of the above-mentioned Non-Self-Governing Territories took part in a meeting organized by UNESCO on strengthening coordination activities relating to sea-level observation in the Caribbean. During the following month, an exercise on improving tsunami preparedness throughout the Caribbean region was carried out with participants from Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

7. With regard to the Pacific region, in 2010 Tokelau consultations took place, aimed at identifying how UNESCO could best support the education sector in accordance with the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2010-2015. Tokelau expressed interest in UNESCO support in the following key areas: school management and leadership; capacity-building in educational information systems; the development of teaching resources towards education for sustainable development; and literacy education for the adult population. In May 2010, UNESCO supported the participation of Tokelau at a meeting of the heads of education systems of the Pacific region, held in Nadi, Fiji.

8. Furthermore, in 2010 UNESCO provided technical support for the development of the first national women's policy and national action plan for women, as well as for the preparation of a draft Tokelau national cultural policy.

9. With regard to the strengthening of information activities, in May 2010 UNESCO, together with other United Nations agencies, conducted a training workshop in Suva aimed at raising awareness about the Millennium Development Goals among media across the Pacific region, including in Tokelau. The workshop sought to increase attention to Millennium Development Goal-related achievements and to stimulate progress in areas where fewer gains had been made.